

BOURREE PASTOURELLE

France

A circle bourree from the region of Pouligny-Notre-Dame in Lower Berry is one of the most popular dances in Berry. Bourrees are the quintessential, "real" French dances. The origins are unknown, though they are widely spread on French territory especially in the Centre, Massif Central, Auvergne, Rouerque, Limousin, and especially Berry. In Berry, bourrees are danced in a very sober style -- no gesture with hands. M carry most of the typical style with his knee action, which is strictly forbidden for W, who dance in a very delicate way. Learned from Germain and Louise Hebert.

MUSIC: Rhythme 4002, "Bourree Pastourelle"

FORMATION: A circle of 6 to 10 cpls, W at M's R, all facing ctr, free hands at sides for M. W hold skirt.

BASIC STEPS: Pas de bourree (bourree step)

Starting on L ft, step fwd with the full wt of the body touching the ground and bend both knees (ct 1); step-close on ball of R ft, straightening the knees slightly (ct &); step on ball of L ft, straightening the knees slightly (ct 2); (All steps should be kept "under" the body and close to the ground)

Avant-deux droit

Meas 1 Both starting with L ft, dance one bourree step fwd and meet your ptr with th R shoulder. (Note: the first step is a large one.)

Meas 2 Dancing on the spot, do one bourree step if you are a W. M bend both knees on the 1st count of the meas.

Meas 3 Move bkwd with one bourree step, starting with L ft.

Meas 4 Do one bourree step in place.

Bransiller

These steps are basically bourree steps done on the spot. Steps for M are done very neatly, crossing on the second ct. Step on Lft sdwd L (ct 1); cross R over L (ct &); step on L ft in place (ct 2). Reverse. (W do not cross on ct &.)

MUSIC 2/4

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

8 INTRODUCTION

FIGURE 1 -- Avant-deux

A 1-4 All M move fwd with steps of "Avant-deux droit". W do the same starting 2 meas later.
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.
1-8 Repeat meas 1-8.

FIGURE 2 -- Chaine

As Figure 2 starts, W are on the inside circle. They will not complete their avant-deux, but will do ½ turn CCW to fact their ptr.

B 1-2 Join R hands with ptr and move and change place with ptr, using the first 2 meas of avant-deux droit"
3-8 Keep moving diag out and in, like in a Grand R and L.
1-8 Repeat Meas 1-8, Figure 2.

FIGURE 3 -- Avant-Deux

At the end of Figure 2, M finish on the outside circle.

- A 1-4 All move twd the next ptr meeting with R shoulder using "Avant-deux droit" steps (W face out, M face in).
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, Figure 3, meeting the same ptr at L shoulder.
1-8 Repeat meas 1-8, Figure 3.

FIGURE 4 -- Souriciere (Mouse-Trap)

During this figure W dance on the spot with "bransiller steps" (Lower Berry Style).

- B 1-2 Starting with L ft, M using same steps as in Figure 2, move behind ptr past her L shoulder. After 2 meas, M are behind W.
3-4 Continuing past W's R shoulder, M moves on to next W.
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, Figure 4.
1-8 Repeat meas 1-8, Figure 4. On last meas, M grabs W's inside hand and all fact ct. All join hands and hold them down.

FIGURE 5 -- Avant-deux

- A 1-8 All starting with L, W & M move twd ctr with "Avant-deux droit" steps.
1-6 Repeat meas 1-6, Figure 5.
7 M join inside hand with W on their R, drop the other, m turn ½ CW to face out of ctr. W turn a full turn CCW under joined hand.
8 M dance on the spot with a "bransiller step" as W moves on the outside circle to the next M, moving CW.

FIGURE 6 -- Pastourelle

- B 1-2 M & W join R hands. Balancing the hands sdwd to M's R, then L, 2 "bransiller steps".
3-4 W turn CCW und the joined hands and move CW to the next M. All do 2 "bransiller steps"
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, Figure 6 with new ptr.
1-8 Repeat meas 1-8, Figure 6. On the last 2 meas, M do 1 full turn CW. All finish facing ctr.

Presented by George Davis at DCFF 2012

Old French Provinces



Location of Pouligny-Notre-Dame

